

SECRET
IMMEDIATE

FRP:

STAFF

OUTGOING

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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[REDACTED]

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PAGE 001
TOT: 030400Z JAN 87

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SECRET
BRIEF

TO: IMMEDIATE

ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

b3

[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST ASIA BRIEF
1987.

FOR 3 JANUARY

b3

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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1. SOUTH AFRICA: PREPARING FOR A NATIONAL ELECTION

OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE REACTED POSITIVELY TO PRESIDENT BOTHA'S CONFIRMATION THAT A GENERAL ELECTION, TO INCLUDE A REFERENDUM ON UNSPECIFIED REFORM ISSUES, WILL BE HELD EARLY THIS YEAR. THE LIBERAL PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY, THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT, STATED IT WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE BOTHA GOVERNMENT. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ANNOUNCED THAT IN PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTION IT WILL HOLD A UNITY CONFERENCE LATER THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS A MERGER WITH THE FAR-RIGHT HERSTIGTE NASIONALE PARTY. HERSTIGTE PARTY LEADERS, HOWEVER, SAY THEY WANT ONLY A TEMPORARY PACT THAT WOULD PREVENT THE TWO PARTIES FROM COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER IN INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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[REDACTED] b3 THE RULING NATIONAL PARTY WILL RETAIN CONTROL OF PARLIAMENT IN THE ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, BOTHA CLEARLY WANTS TO LIMIT RIGHTWING GAINS, AND HE WILL PROBABLY OPT FOR A SHORT CAMPAIGN PERIOD THAT WOULD GIVE THE HERSTIGTIF AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES LESS TIME TO IRON OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES AND TO ORGANIZE A UNIFIED CAMPAIGN. ALTHOUGH A FORMAL MERGER OF THE TWO RIGHTWING PARTIES IS UNLIKELY, THEY PROBABLY WILL AGREE TO A TEMPORARY TRUCE AND WILL RUN A SINGLE CANDIDATE IN MOST ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. [REDACTED] b3

2. ZAIRE-US: MOBUTU'S EXPECTATIONS OF SUPPORT

PRESIDENT MOBUTU BELIEVES THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST MONTH HE OBTAINED A PROMISE OF FULL US BACKING FOR RENEGOTIATING ZAIRE'S SUSPENDED AGREEMENTS WITH THE IMF AND WORLD BANK, [REDACTED] b3 KINSHASA UNILATERALLY SUSPENDED PAYMENTS DUE IN DECEMBER TO THE PARIS CLUB AND COMMERCIAL BANKERS. WITH FOREIGN EXCHANGE ALREADY SHORT, DELAYS IN LOAN DISBURSEMENTS TO KINSHASA ARE CAUSING HIGHER INFLATION AND A MORE RAPID DEPRECIATION OF THE LOCAL CURRENCY. [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] MOBUTU'S EXPECTATION OF US BACKING WILL ENCOURAGE KINSHASA TO TAKE A HARD LINE IN TALKS WITH THE IMF AND WORLD BANK. A HALT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, OR EVEN A DELAY, WOULD FURTHER DAMAGE ZAIRE'S FINANCES AND POSSIBLY RENDER THE IMF AND WORLD BANK PROGRAMS UNSALVAGEABLE. MOBUTU STILL DOUBTS HE IS GETTING ENOUGH IN RETURN FOR HIS SUPPORT OF US POLICIES; AND, IF HIS FOUR-YEAR REFORM EFFORT COLLAPSES, HE MAY BLAME THE US AND TAKE RETALIATORY ACTIONS, SUCH AS EXPELLING US DIPLOMATS. [REDACTED] b3

4. IN BRIEF
TERRORISM

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

AFRICA

MIDDLE EAST

--FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ARAB GULF STATES TO HOLD SPECIAL
SESSION IN SAUDI ARABIA ON TUESDAY. . . . WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS IRAN-IRAQ WAR, DRAFT AGENDA FOR
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEETING IN LATE JANUARY.

--HIZBALLAH KILLED SIX MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI-BACKED ARMY OF
SOUTH LEBANON YESTERDAY IN ISRAELI SECURITY ZONE IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON. . . . COUTTER ATTACKS LIKELY.

~~SECRET~~

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